

aged 66 years. J. S. Darling, M.D., for many years the leading provincial general practitioner, was president in 1924-5; he died November 8, 1927, aged 71 years. These have passed from us, but their names are still fresh in our memory, as ornaments to our profession, leaders in our discussions, and originators of new and better methods in our campaign against disease, infirmity, and pain.

The Society has become a great force in the community, its membership is slowly but steadily increasing, the meetings are better attended, and for the last five years, instead of yearly transactions, the Society boasts of a quarterly journal of its own, the *ULSTER MEDICAL JOURNAL*, controlled by an editorial board of its own members, and with a circulation which extends far beyond the confines of Belfast and Northern Ireland.

This History of the Ulster Medical Society is based on a study of the following :—

The Minute Book of the Belfast Medical Society.

The Minute Book of the Belfast Clinical and Pathological Society.

The Minute Books of the Ulster Medical Society.

The published Transactions of the Ulster Medical Society.

Reports and Obituary Notices published in the "Quarterly Journal of Medical Science" (Dublin), "The Lancet," and "The British Medical Journal."

Reports and Obituary Notices published in "The Belfast News-Letter."

Private letters and documents kindly lent by relatives of deceased presidents of the Society.

ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING, SESSION 1935-6

THE seventy-fourth annual general meeting of the Society was held in the Whitla Medical Institute, College Square North, on Friday, 22nd May, 1936, at 4.15 p.m.

The president was in the chair, and there was a fair attendance of Fellows and Members. The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

The hon. secretary then submitted the report of Council for the session 1935-6, and proposed its adoption. This was seconded by Dr. R. H. Hunter, and passed. The hon. treasurer's statement, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Calvert, was read by Dr. Allen and passed. It was agreed that the financial statement should be printed and circulated to all Fellows and Members early in the autumn. Dr. Allen moved the adoption of the financial statement. This was seconded by Dr. Hunter, and passed. The *JOURNAL* account was also presented by Dr. Allen, which showed a profit for the year of £13. 9s. 8d., a condition of affairs on which the president heartily congratulated the editor, Dr. R. H. Hunter. The hon. librarian's report was then presented by Dr. Allison, who referred to the valuable gift of books

from Dr. M. J. Nolan during the year. The adoption of this report was seconded by Dr. Morrow, and passed.

The following office-bearers were elected for 1936-7 :—President, Prof. P. T. Crymble; vice-presidents, Dr. T. Kennedy and Mr. T. S. Holmes; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. A. Calvert; hon. secretary, Dr. F. P. Montgomery; hon. librarian, Dr. S. R. Allison; hon. editorial secretary, Dr. H. Hilton Stewart; hon. editor, Dr. R. H. Hunter. Council: Prof. W. W. D. Thomson, Mr. J. R. Wheeler, Prof. J. S. Young, Dr. James Boyd, Dr. Frackelton, Mr. H. L. H. Greer. Editorial Board: Prof. P. T. Crymble, Prof. R. J. Johnstone, Prof. W. W. D. Thomson, Prof. J. S. Young.

The hon. secretary proposed the following resolution: "That Council shall be empowered by this general meeting to make any arrangements for the editorship of the *ULSTER MEDICAL JOURNAL*."

Dr. R. H. Hunter seconded, and the resolution was passed.

The Council begs to present the seventy-fourth annual report of the Society.

The roll of the Society now stands as follows :—Hon. Fellows, 7; Life Fellows, 13; Fellows, 275; Members, 60—total 355.

During the year the Society has suffered the following losses by death :—Dr. J. W. Peatt, Fellow since 1920; Dr. S. E. Picken, Fellow since 1920; Dr. Katherine Robertson, Fellow since 1922; Dr. T. M. Tate, Fellow since 1905.

Eight meetings of the Society have been held during the year and attendances have been very satisfactory.

A joint meeting of the Society with the Radiological Society of Ireland was held during the year, which proved a great success.

The laboratory meeting was again an outstanding event of the year, and reflected great credit on Prof. Young and his staff.

The annual dinner was held as usual in the Medical Institute, and again proved a most enjoyable function.

THE *ULSTER MEDICAL JOURNAL* continues to progress under the able editorship of Dr. R. H. Hunter, and its continued high standard has greatly enhanced the prestige of the Society.

Your Council has met on seven occasions, and the following attendances are recorded :—

The president, 7; Sir T. Houston, 1; Dr. G. F. Campbell, 0; Dr. Harold Gray, 1; Prof. Lowry, 1; Prof. Thomson, 2; Prof. Young, 4; Dr. James Boyd, 7; Dr. Frackelton, 5; Dr. S. R. Hunter, 6; Dr. J. A. Smyth, 3; Mr. Greer, 3; Mr. Calvert, 1; Dr. Allison, 4; Dr. H. H. Stewart, 4; Dr. R. H. Hunter, 5; Dr. Allen, 3; hon. secretary, 7.

H. HILTON STEWART, *Hon. Editorial Secretary*.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

THE annual dinner of the Division was held in the Giants' Causeway Hotel on Thursday, 16th March. The chairman, Dr. J. C. M. Martin, presided, and there were over seventy members and guests present.

After the toast of "The King," Alderman D. H. Christie, M.P., Mayor of Coleraine, proposed the toast of "The British Medical Association," and Dr. F. M. B. Allen, honorary secretary of the Northern Ireland Branch, replied in a racy speech, and reminded those present that the Association would be meeting in Belfast in 1937.

The toast of "The Guests" was given by Dr. Bateman, and Dr. J. McLaughlin (Derry), Mr. W. G. Keys, and Mr. G. Boyle replied. Dr. Huey, the "father" of the Division, then proposed the health of the chairman, to which Dr. Martin responded.

Dr. Ross Thomson having proposed "The Secretary," Dr. Hunter replied, and Mr. Hugh Carson responded on behalf of "The Musical Guests," proposed by Dr. McClelland.

During the evening the company was entertained to a duet by Messrs. Carson and Donnan, and to some delightful songs by the same gentlemen. Mr. Dan McLaughlin gave some of his famous recitations, and Mr. A. J. W. Christie also recited and rendered solos from his repertoire on the ocarina.

One of the most enjoyable dinners the Division has had ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

The Division met in the Cottage Hospital, Coleraine, on Monday, 25th May, when the main business was a paper by Mr. Ian Fraser on "Injection Treatment of Varicose Veins." The paper was most practical, and was illustrated by lantern slides. At the conclusion several members asked questions, and the thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Fraser for a most useful and stimulating address.

The following office-bearers were elected for 1936-7 :—Chairman, Dr. Sloan McL. Bolton; vice-chairman, Dr. G. Bateman; representative to annual meeting, B.M.A., D. Huey, Esq., F.R.C.S.; representative to Branch, D. Huey, Esq., F.R.C.S.; hon. secretary and treasurer, Dr. J. M. Hunter.

Dr. Huey drew attention to the poor support that the doctors in this district gave to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund of Ireland, and appealed for better support for this Fund. He pointed out that County Antrim actually subscribed less than the county obtained from the Fund for local beneficiaries, and maintained that local subscriptions must be substantially increased in the immediate future. He asked everyone present to undertake to give a regular annual subscription.

The same speaker explained briefly the functions of the National Health Insurance Defence Fund.

Matron and her staff were cordially thanked for very kindly entertaining the meeting to tea.

J. M. HUNTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

36 Eglinton Terrace, Portrush.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

THE annual meeting of the Branch was held on 7th May in the King Edward Building of the Royal Victoria Hospital, when the various reports were submitted and adopted. Mr. H. L. Hardy Greer was elected president of the Branch for the year 1936-7, and Dr. T. B. Pedlow the president-elect, Dr. Pedlow and Dr. Allen continuing as honorary treasurer and secretary respectively.

There were a number of clinical cases available for examination and discussion as usual, but the main attraction was the exhibition of pathological specimens which had been collected for the recent Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and which were displayed to advantage.

After the meeting the president (Dr. Wm. Lyle) entertained the members to lunch in the Grand Central Hotel, Professor R. J. Johnstone expressing the thanks of those present for the president's very generous hospitality.

F. M. B. ALLEN, *Hon. Secretary.*

73 University Road, Belfast.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, 1937

SINCE the last number of the *ULSTER MEDICAL JOURNAL* appeared, considerable progress has been made with the more difficult problems with which the Executive Committee are faced.

We have been fortunate in persuading the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to send over a liner capable of accommodating over four hundred visitors. The Belfast Harbour Board will allow this boat to lie up in the port for the duration of the meeting. At the end of the week it is suggested that the liner will make her way back to England round the north of Scotland and will visit one of the Norwegian fjords. These arrangements are so advanced that it will be possible to take bookings for berths at the Oxford meeting. This still leaves a big task before the Housing Committee, but it has relieved it of part of its burden.

Mr. Ferris Scott, business manager of the Association, has inspected the Ulster Hall and is satisfied that it is big enough for the Trades Exhibition. The registration and reception rooms will also be in the Ulster Hall.

The following members have been appointed as the local representatives to meet six other members appointed by the Council in London to make the arrangements for the scientific sections :—Professor Johnstone, Dr. F. M. B. Allen, Professor Thomson, Professor Crymble, Mr. S. T. Irwin, and Dr. Dempsey.

In response to the recent appeal sent to all doctors in the North of Ireland on behalf of the local funds, Mr. Fullerton, the honorary treasurer, reports that so far only eighty-four subscriptions have come in. We are sure there are many who fully intend to subscribe, but who feel that it is time enough. An early reply would be a great encouragement to the Executive, because many of the arrangements must depend on the finances available, and we are anxious to make the meeting in every respect a success.

R. W. M. STRAIN, *Hon. Assistant Secretary.*

9 University Square, Belfast.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND SOCIETY OF IRELAND. BELFAST AND COUNTY ANTRIM BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of the Belfast and County Antrim Branch of the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund Society of Ireland was held in the Whitla Medical Institute, Belfast, on 22nd May, 1936. Dr. J. S. Morrow, O.B.E., chairman of the Committee, presided. He referred in suitable terms to the debt of gratitude which the Society owed to Dr. V. G. L. Fielden, who had recently retired from the office of honorary secretary and treasurer of the Belfast and County Antrim Branch after twenty-seven years of faithful and devoted service. The honorary secretary presented a short financial statement, showing that up to date the annual subscriptions of the branch amounted, with bank interest, to £138. 12s. 3d.; the expenses amounted to £11. 13s. 9d., of which £10. 1s. 11d. represented the cost of the special appeal which had been sent out in January to every medical practitioner in Northern Ireland. The grants recommended for the year, nine in number, for sums varying from £12 to £30, amounted to £177. He pointed out that the sum of £138 odd included donations of £20 and £5 which could not be considered as annual subscriptions. These figures represented a discreditable drop from the sums subscribed in the 1870-80 period, when the annual income of the branch was over £200 per annum, derived from a larger number of subscribers in a smaller medical population, with fewer requests for charity and with money of a higher purchasing power. He was particularly disappointed in the response from doctors outside the Belfast district of the county of Antrim, possibly the most prosperous county in the whole of Ireland. He drew attention to the small sums which it was possible for the Society to grant even in cases of dire necessity, and alluded to the desire on the part of the English Society to raise their grants to £52 per annum for impoverished doctors and £36 per annum for dependants, together with larger grants in special cases. Such sums as these, he said, were impossible in the present state of the